

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 071357Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3030

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 3221

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CORREIA TO HEAD 5TH DIVISION

1. THE 5TH DIVISION (INFORMATION AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION ACTIVITIES) OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 6 THAT LT RAMIRO CARREIA OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAD BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE COL ROBIN DE ANDRADE AS HEAD OF THE 5TH DIVISION.

2. CORREIA, A NAVY DOCTOR AND MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC), HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE RC AND THE 5TH DIVISION AND WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION COMMISSION, WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN THE 5TH DIVISION.

3. 5TH DIVISION LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN CONTENTIOUS AND AMBIGUOUS MATTER IN PAST AS COL ANDRADE, THOUGHT TO BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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MODERATE, APPARENTLY SERVED AS A FIGUREHEAD WHILE COMMUNIST

LINING COL. VARELA GOMES AND YOUNGER OFFICERS TOOK STRONGLY LEFTIST AND PRO-COMMUNIST TILT IN THEIR INFORMATION AND DYNAMIZATION ACTIVITIES. 5TH DIVISION'S "AFM BULLETIN" HAS TWICE GOTTERN DIVISION INTO HOT WATER WITH AFM WITH ITS COMMUNIST LINE. COL. VARELA GOMES, WHO WAS ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING ARMS TO RADICAL LEFT DURING THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT, IS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE POWER BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE 5TH DIVISION.

4. CORREIA IS IN ON THE LEFT WING OF THE AFM AND WE CARRY HIM AS A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER. CORREIA CAME STRONGLY TO PUBLIC EYE ON DAY FOLLOWING ELECTION WHEN HE DENIGRATED THE ELECTIONS AND THE RESULTS DURING A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE - A PERFORMANCE THAT LEFT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ASTONISHED AND ANGERED.

5. COMMENT: CORREIA'S APPOINTMENT IS LOGICAL RESULT OF RECENT TREND OF BRINGING MORE AND MORE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES INTO THE HANDS OF MEMBERS OF THE RC.

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